

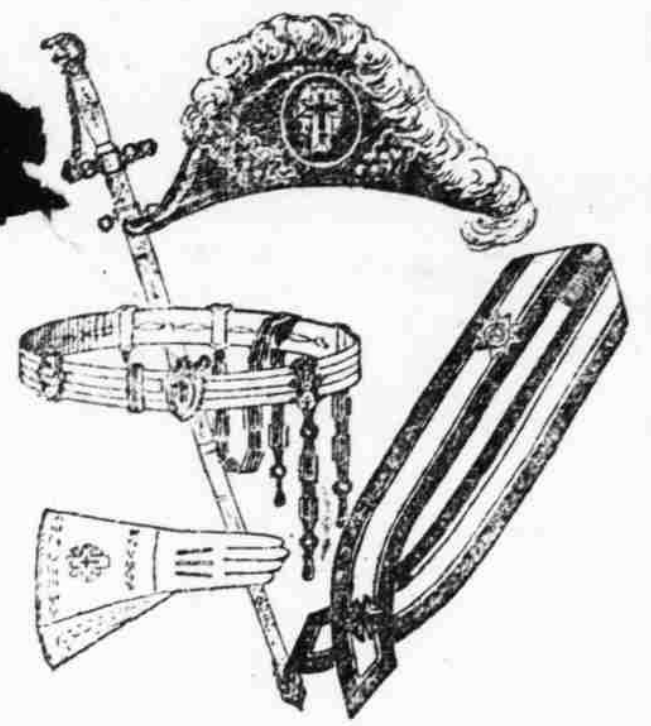
## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The Triennial Conclave at Washington.

63,000 WILL BE ON THE GROUND.

A Condensed History of the Order. Its Objects and Origin—The Principal Officers—A Brief Sketch of Grand Master Roome—Other Matters.

The twenty-fourth triennial convocation of the grand encampment of Knights Templar in the United States is to be held in the city of Washington during the second week in October. As the grand encampment is the governing body of the "Religious and Military Order of Christian Knighthood," and is attached to the Masonic fraternity, its meetings are always looked forward to with some interest, more especially as it embraces the whole of the United States within its jurisdiction, and is attended by representatives from all parts of the Union.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR REGALIA.

The opening of the grand convocation has lately been celebrated by an imposing parade of knights, who act as escort to the officers and members of the grand encampment. Such a parade is to be held in the national capital on Oct. 8, and will consist of twelve divisions, all under the command of Sir Myron M. Parker as chief marshal, with Sir Harrison Dingman as chief of staff. The following will show the states represented in each division:

First Division—Knights of the city of Washington as special escort to the grand encampment officers, who will ride in carriages.

Second Division—Grand commanderies and Knights of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Third Division—Grand commanderies and Knights of New York.

Fourth Division—Grand commanderies of Virginia, Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut, with attendant Knights.

Fifth Division—Grand commanderies and Knights of Ohio, Kentucky and Maine.

Sixth Division—Grand commandery and Knights of Pennsylvania.

Seventh Division—Grand commandery and Knights of Indiana, Texas, Michigan and Mississippi.

Eighth Division—Grand commandery and Knights of Illinois.

Ninth Division—Grand commanderies and Knights of California, Tennessee, Wisconsin and New Jersey.

Tenth Division—Grand commanderies and Knights of Georgia, Missouri, Alabama and Louisiana.

Eleventh Division—Grand commanderies and knights of Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas, West Virginia, Colorado and North Carolina.

Twelfth Division—Grand commanderies and knights of Dakota, Oregon, Washington territory, Montana and Wyoming.

In this division will be a delegation from Manitoba, Can., as guests of the Dakota knights.

The column will be several thousand strong, and, with the brilliant banners of the various bodies, the gay uniforms and brightly shining swords, must present a procession rarely seen, even in this country of great military parades.

The maneuvers of the knights in their Templar tactics while on the march will also form a peculiar feature of the parade rarely witnessed in public.

or with such numbers assembled in one body.

Sir Knight M. M. Parker, the chairman of the finance committee, has been indefatigable in his efforts to make the convention a success in every way. Sir Knight Allison Nailer, chairman of the committee on hotels, has made every possible arrangement for the comfort of the visiting commanderies. Sir Knight James E. Waugh, chairman of the committee on finance, for the past three or four months has given almost his entire time to the arduous duties of the office. Among the other committeemen who have worked hard and faithfully are Sir Knight E. H. Chamberlain, chairman of the committee on transportation, and Sir Knight Harrison Dingman.

The grand encampment is formed of the officers belonging to the state governing bodies or grand commanderies. The latter are composed of the officers of the subordinate bodies or individual commanderies. As the officers of each single body are elected by the members thereof, the grand encampment is a purely representative organization in which every knight is interested. It consists of a grand master, whose title is most eminent; deputy grand master, grand generalissimo, grand captain general, grand prelate, senior grand warden, junior grand warden, grand treasurer, grand recorder, grand standard bearer, grand sword bearer, grand warler, grand captain of the guard, each having the title of very eminent, as officers; all the most eminent past grand masters, past deputy grand masters, past grand generalissimos, and past grand captains general who have served their terms of office in the grand encampment; likewise the grand commanders, past grand commanders, deputy grand commanders, grand generalissimos and grand captains general of the state grand commanderies holding fealty to the grand

encampment, also the first three officers of each subordinate commandery holding a charter direct from the grand encampment. The grand encampment of the United States was organized on June 22, 1816. It is invested with power to regulate the order in general, the state grand bodies reserving to themselves certain rights of local government. It has the power to charter individual commanderies of Knights Templar in districts where there is no grand or state body, and has supervision over the question of uniformity in action and regulation. The members elect the officers, who serve three years, such office being one of honor and without pay or emolument.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KNIGHTHOOD.

The "Religious and Military Order of Knights Templar" dates back to the crusades. Although the present system differs entirely from the objects of the original Knights Templar, still many, if not all, the ceremonies have been retained. The original order, which was for the protection from the Saracens of pilgrims visiting the Holy City, was founded by Baldwin II, king of Jerusalem, in the year 1118. From this date the order reckons; therefore the present Templar year is A. O. 771. Hugues de Payens was the first master of the order, and is regarded by many as the founder. Men belonging to the noblest families of Europe became members of the order, and in 1128 the popes—for the Roman pontiff then recognized the Knights—issued rules and regulations, prepared expressly by St. Bernard, for its governance. Despite persecution the order has existed to the present time, although its ostensible objects have been changed. Jacques de Molay, the grand master of the order, which had then become wealthy, was martyred by Philip of France and Pope Clement, but before his death named his successor. Since that time the list of grand masters has not been broken. Under the protection of Freemasonry the secrets of the order have been preserved, and it is considered an honor today to hold membership with the Knights Templar.

To become a member, the candidate must be a Royal Arch Mason, although there is not a vestige of Freemasonry in the ceremonies of the order. The emblems and banners show that the knightly order is based on Christianity, pure and simple, while Masonry is non-sectarian in its character. The banner of the order is white, on which is displayed a red cross, with the motto, "In hoc signo vinces"—in this sign we conquer.

Among the jewels is the Paschal Lamb. The battle flag of the order is black and white. Both full and fatigue dress are worn by the Knights. Full dress consists of black frock coat and pants, baldric, sword, belt, chaplain, gauntlets and shoulder straps, with appropriate trimmings. For fatigue dress the same is worn, except that a cap with a red cross in front takes the place of the chaplain; the baldric is dispensed with and gloves are worn instead of gauntlets.

So highly is the order esteemed that the Prince of Wales, grand master of England, founded a few years ago the "Grand Cross of the Temple," to which only grand masters, or those of equal rank, can be admitted to membership.

Most eminent Sir John Q. A. Fellows, of Louisiana, while grand master of the United States, was admitted thereto.

STRENGTH OF THE KNIGHTLY ORDER.

The estimated number of enrolled members attached to the "Religious and Military Order of Knights Templar" holding allegiance to the grand encampment of the United States is about 75,000. Added to these may be mentioned fully one-third more of knights errant; those who have taken the vow of the order, but who are not now affiliated with any commandery. This would make a total of about 100,000 Knights in this country alone, to say nothing of those belonging to the various preceptories of Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada. The exact figures of the enrolled membership in the United States will be collated by the grand recorder of the grand encampment and presented to that body in an official report during the session.

The following may be taken as a rough estimate of the knights in the different jurisdictions represented in the grand convocation of the present triennial year:

Alabama, 250; Arkansas, 300; California, 2,500; Colorado, 750; Connecticut, 1,500; Dakota, 500; Georgia, 400; Illinois, 6,500; Indiana, 2,500; Iowa, 3,500; Kansas, 2,000; Kentucky, 1,500; Louisiana, 300; Maine, 2,000; Maryland, 750; Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 7,000; Michigan, 4,000; Minnesota, 1,500; Mississippi, 500; Missouri, 3,000; Montana, 500; Nebraska, 1,000; New Hampshire, 1,500; New Jersey, 1,200; New York, 7,500; North Carolina, 250; Ohio, 6,000; Oregon, 500; Pennsylvania, 7,500; Tennessee, 500; Texas, 1,000; Vermont, 1,000; Virginia, 900; Washington territory, 500; West Virginia, 500; Wisconsin, 2,000; Wyoming, 500; chartered by grand encampment, including District of Columbia, 2,000.

The above enumerated knights are enrolled in about 750 subordinate commanderies, the principal of each becoming members of the state grand commanderies, and forming the body from which the four principal officers are selected to act as representatives of the knights in the grand encampment, as already described in what constitutes that august and sovereign organization. The names of the state or grand commanderies thus represented are detailed in the foregoing list of enumerated knights, and their local powers are exercised therein, without restriction by the higher body.

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

Each triennial session of the grand encampment elects the officers who are to serve during the following three years, and who act as such during the succeeding session. The following is a list of the officers elected in 1886, and who are expected, if alive and well, to act as such during the grand convocation to be held at Washington city in October.

Most Eminent Sir Charles Roome, of New York city, grand master.

Very Eminent Sir John P. S. Gobin, of Lebanon, Pa., deputy grand master.

Very Eminent Sir Hugh McCurdy, of Corunna, Mich., grand generalissimo.

Very Eminent Sir Warren La Rue Thomas, of Louisville, Ky., grand captain general.

Very Eminent Sir Reuben Hendley Lloyd, of San Francisco, Cal., grand senior warden.

Very Eminent Sir Henry Bates Stoddard, of Bryan, Tex., grand junior warden.

Very Eminent Sir H. Wales Lines, of Meriden, Conn., grand treasurer.

Very Eminent Sir William Isaacs, of Richmond, Va., grand recorder.

Very Eminent and Rev. Sir John G. Webster, of Greenbush, N. Y., grand prelate.

Very Eminent Sir John Parson, of St. Louis, Mo., grand standard bearer.

Eminent Sir Nicholas Van Slyck, of Providence, R. I., grand sword bearer.

Very Eminent Sir Nicholas R. Ruckle, of Indianapolis, Ind., grand warden.

Eminent Sir Edwin F. Warren, of Nebraska City, Neb., grand captain of the guard.

To these are attached two very important standing committees.

Committee on Jurisprudence—Most Eminent Sirs James H. Hopkins, of Pennsylvania; Henry L. Palmer, of Wisconsin; John Q. A. Fellows, of Louisiana, and Robert E. Withers, of Virginia, all past grand masters of the grand encampment; with Right Eminent Sir George O. Tyler, past grand commander of Knights Templar in Vermont.

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Biographical Sketch of the Grand Master.

The highest distinguished officer of the coming grand encampment is the most eminent grand master. A sketch of his career of over "three score years and ten" is certainly appropriate, as more than thirty years of his life has been devoted to Masonry, as was that of his father, the late W. Bro. Nicholas Roome, of New York city.

Most Eminent Sir Charles Roome was born in the city of New York on Aug. 4, 1812. After receiving a regular school education he, at the age of 21 years, entered upon mercantile pursuits, but at the age of 25 years became assistant engineer of the Manhattan Gas company, rising to be engineer-in-chief in 1842. During the year 1855 he was chosen president of the company, which position he still retains, being acknowledged the head of the profession in the civilized world.

During the late civil war he raised, equipped and commanded the Thirty-seventh regiment of New York troops, and by bravery won the rank of brevet brigadier general of the United States army. He had been captain of the fourth company of the Seventh regiment of the National Guard of the state of New York, and is a member of the Veteran association. His career as a Mason and Knights Templar is honorable. Raised in Kane lodge of New York city in January, 1836, in two years he became the worshipful master, which office he held for three consecutive years, being again elected in 1870. His service was rewarded by the members with tokens in the shape of past master's jewel, a gold watch and chain, and an album containing engrossed complimentary resolutions. In 1870 he was chosen district deputy grand master, and the following year grand marshal of the grand lodge, which office he held during the great parade of 1875, which marked the dedication of the Masonic temple in New York city.

In 1878 he was elected deputy grand master of the state of New York, and the next year most worshipful grand master of Freemasons in that state. His efforts in the construction of the New York Masonic temple, and also in aiding to clear it from debt, has made his name estimable in that branch of the fraternity.

Gen. Roome became a Knights Templar in Cœur de Lion commandery, No. 23, of New York, in 1860; was elected eminent commander in 1867, holding the rank and position until 1872, when he voluntarily retired. He was then an officer of the grand commandery of New York as grand captain general, having previously filled other offices in that body. In 1875 he was elected right eminent grand commander of Knights Templar in the state of New York, becoming thereby a permanent member of the grand encampment of the United States. In the year 1880 he was elected very eminent grand generalissimo of that august body, and in 1885 very eminent deputy grand master. The appointment of the Hon. Robert E. Withers, then grand master of Knights Templar, to be United States minister to China, threw the burden of the higher office on Gen. Roome, and he satisfactorily performed all the duties by virtue of the grand master's general order No. 3, dated May 30, 1885. At the triennial convocation, held in St. Louis in 1886, Gen. Roome was elected most eminent grand

master of Knights Templar in the United States—the highest office which he now holds. Gen. Roome was also invested with the thirty-third degree in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, in which he has taken a great interest, and he became a member of the supreme council of the northern jurisdiction.

Rev. Sir John G. Webster died since the officers were elected.

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A System That Needs Changing.

No reasonable man, who is not an object of charity, would think of going into a grocery store and asking the proprietor to wrap him up ten pounds of sugar or a bushel of meal as a gift. Yet there are hundreds of persons in every community who seem to think the columns of a newspaper are public property, and the editor a man whose business it is to "puff" every private enterprise of whatever nature, public calls for public meetings, church fairs, obituary notices, resolution of thanks, tributes of respect, and all that sort of things for nothing, and pay for house rent, blank paper and printers' hire for the privilege of doing it; and they do not hesitate to ask the publisher to give them dollars upon dollars' worth of free advertising, when they would not think of asking their grocery man to make them a donation of ten cents' worth of goods. This is wrong, and the whole system needs changing.

The columns of a newspaper represent the stock in trade of the proprietor; his means of livelihood—and to ask him to give away his space, is an injustice and imposition upon a generous, home loving class of citizens—the editors of our land—who are entitled to more considerate treatment and better things at the hands of their people.—Henderson Gold Leaf.

Waycross as a Metropolis.

The Rev. D. Watson Winn, rector of Grace church, Waycross, writes that after suffering twenty-five years from painful and disagreeable eruptions, caused by poison oak, he was cured with one bottle of P. P. P., the world's greatest purifier.

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